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Bangalore Mirror ON SUNDAY

TEMP Max 30 Partly Cloudy Sensex 77,505 | Nifty 23,482 | Gold 82,100 | Silver 93,250 | Dollar 86.70 | Euro 89.69 | GBP 107.48

>> Tax relief will spur consumption: Industry stalwarts PAGE 8

>> Nothing in it for Karnataka: CM Siddaramaiah

>> Realty pleased: Shares of real estate companies rise

>> Portal opens to facilitate last-mile delivery

>> Boost to tech: AI, nuclear energy on govt's mind PAGE 9

The green book: Manual to outline course of action for 10 years on urban forest management, prevent cruelty against trees

HOW TO REVERE A TREE

Draft manual to ensure regular monitoring and maintenance

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Amidst growing concern about Bengaluru's depleting green cover, the Forest Department of Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) has developed a manual to manage and save trees in the city.

Titled 'The Bengaluru Urban Tree Management Manual 2024', the document outlines a course of action for urban forest management and has been developed to ensure regular monitoring and maintenance to protect tree health and public safety.

PAGE 5 BLUE & GREEN SPACES

According to BBMP officials, the provisions of the will soon be presented for public consultation before it is enforced from the date the manual is approved by the Chief Commissioner.

The draft manual outlines a course of action for next 10 years on urban forest management activities in the urban and peri-urban areas of the city. It will also prevent cruelty against trees.

> **"In Bengaluru, trees are often viewed as obstacles to development, leading to their removal for road widening or infrastructure upgrades. Their roots and crowns are frequently trimmed during construction activities, creating imbalances that increase the risk of tree falls**
>
> —BLG Swamy, deputy conservator of forest, BBMP

Cruelty against a tree

Actions such as setting trees on fire, poisoning, girdling, debarking, uprooting, or using any other method intended to kill a tree will be considered cruelty. Activities like mutilating roots or branches, excessive pruning, creating crown imbalance, dumping any kind of waste around trees physically harming a tree, or crushing a sapling would also amount to cruelty.

"The manual also covers various other aspects such as hard paving around the tree collar region, hindering water seepage, attaching nails, screws, pegs, bolts, or using trees as anchors for shelters, wrapping trees with barbed wire, live electric fences, cables, or ropes or using harmful chemicals that may damage or stress the tree," said an official.

However, any maintenance work carried out scientifically

CONTINUED ON PAGE 11 >>

Deadly leak

As yet another LPG cylinder blast leaves several injured, experts explain reasons, precautions

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A family's joyous moment of stepping into their newly built home in Doddaballapur turned into a nightmare on Saturday when a gas cylinder explosion left six members severely injured.

While the injured, including two children, undergo treatment, for Bengaluru, this news of cylinder blasts has become routine.

The alarming frequency of cylinder blasts has raised questions about safety measures and compliance with regulations. As many as 204 cylinder blasts due to leakage have been reported in 2024. These accidents have caused multiple fatalities, left many injured, and led to significant property damage.

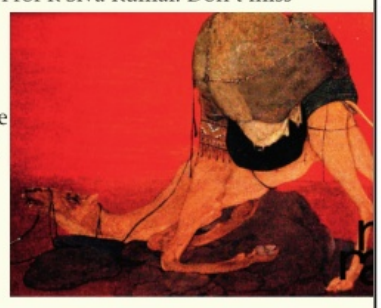
According to M Siddaraju, DFO, Department of Fire and Emergency Services (North), gas leaks often result from faulty regulators and from people carelessly leaving stove knobs on. When leakage occurs, gas fills the room, and minor actions like switching lights on or off can trigger a fire. He emphasises on turning the gas off when not in use as a precaution. If a leak occurs, gas settles inside the room; switching on lights upon entering can cause blasts. Long-term use of gas pipes and regulators

CONTINUED ON PAGE 11 >>

THINGS TO DO

01 Art history

Join an insightful talk, "Abanindranath Tagore: Reclaiming the Narrative Voice" by renowned Art Historian Prof R Siva Kumar. Don't miss the unique opportunity to explore the creative journey of the artist. **Where: National Gallery of Modern Art; When: February 7, 5:30 pm**



02 Theatre masterpiece

Experience the magic of Ranga Vartula's National Award-winning production, RABDI. Adapted from Naushil Mehta's Hindi play into Kannada, this celebrated performance has captivated audiences worldwide. With over 100 performances and critical acclaim, don't miss this exclusive opportunity to witness the theatrical brilliance. Limited tickets are available. **Where: Rangashankara; When: February 5, 7:30 pm**

03 Royal riders

Get ready for an exciting display of equestrian talent! Watch top riders from Zippy Equestrian, Flying Sea Stallion, and Royal Equestrian Academy compete in thrilling Dressage and Show Jumping events. Be part of this action-packed competition, hosted by Embassy International Riding School, under the Karnataka Riding Association's banner. **Where: Embassy International Riding School; When: February 2, 7:00 am**

04 Timeless music

Celebrate Tarangini Arts Foundation's Golden Jubilee with Meera Tarangini, a soulful musical event featuring a 50-member ensemble. Experience timeless Meera bhajans brought to life by renowned artists like Suma Sudhindran, Anooru Ananthakrishna, BC Manjunath, and more. **Where: Chowdiah Memorial Hall; When: February 2, 6:00 pm**

05 Storytime fun

Join author-illustrator Alankrita Amaya for an exciting book launch event featuring her unique accordion-fold book, 'My Book of Alphabites, published by Batani Books. **Where: Atta Galatta, Indiranagar; When February 2; 3:00 pm**

BMRCL completes girder erection

The Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Ltd (BMRCL) on Friday announced that it has completed the erection of four composite steel girders over the 65-metre-long railway track at Rainbow Hospital between the ISRO and Doddanekkundi metro stations, to accommodate the existing railway line and future lines of railways and K-Ride.

In a statement, the BMRCL said that the Approval of the Commissioner of Metro Rail Safety/ Southern Circle Bangalore was obtained before starting the work for launching the scheme and temporary staging for launching of composite girder across the railway track. "Launching of composite girders at this location was no less a challenge as there was no service road. Also, the road at this location is a skew crossing the railway track (Salem Bridge) which further restricted the operation of the crane. In normal conditions, two cranes of capacity 400-500 MT are deployed on either side duly blocking both the main roads and diverting the traffic through a service road," it stated. **— PTI**

Fight for rights

R Ashok, leader of opposition, joins Anganwadi workers' protest for better pay at Freedom Park

Karnataka's new AI system: Keeping employees on time

State is set to roll out AI-based attendance system with GPS tracking to improve punctuality among govt employees; system will offer real-time data and replace outdated biometric devices

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The State government is mulling to introduce an Artificial Intelligence (AI)-based attendance system for state employees to curb tardiness and ensure punctuality in government offices. This is the first time such an advanced system is being planned in the state. The Personnel and Administrative Reforms Department (e-Governance) has developed the Karnataka Attendance Management System (KAMS) and plans to expand its reach across departments to put an end to habitual latecomers.

Sources said that previously, the state had introduced a biometric attendance system, but it encountered several operational challenges. While the system was initially effective, its usage declined over time. Currently, biometric attendance remains functional in district-level offices such as those of the Deputy Commissioner, Superintendent of Police, and Zilla Panchayat. However, it has not been fully implemented in rural areas, particularly at the taluk level. As a result, cases of employees arriving late and leaving early have become common.

AI-Driven GPS-based technology

An official said, "To address these issues, the government has developed an AI-driven attendance system integrated with GPS technology. A pilot project is currently being conducted in the Health and Family Welfare Department to assess the advantages and challenges of the new system. In the coming days, all state government employees will be required to mark their attendance through this AI-powered application. Additionally, the government has identified the high maintenance costs of existing biometric devices as a financial burden."

Implementation for over 5 lakh employees

A government employee said, "The new attendance system prioritises data security and privacy for more than five lakh government employees. Initially, it will be rolled out to employees with a Karnataka Government Insurance Department (KGID) number. In subsequent phases, the system will be extended to contract and outsourced employees who do not have a KGID number. The adoption of this technology is expected to ensure that government officials and staff report to work on time. However, the government must also provide the necessary infrastructure to facilitate the transition."

What is AI-Based attendance?

An official said, "Previously, government employees marked attendance manually in registers. Later, biometric systems were introduced, requiring fingerprint authentication to record entry times. However, in some offices, biometric devices were deliberately damaged, and employees reverted to using attendance registers under the pretext of maintenance issues. Under the new AI-driven system, GPS tracking will be integrated with employees' attendance, and a photograph of the employee will also be captured. This will provide real-time location data, ensuring transparency and accountability in attendance records."

New attendance system prioritises data security and privacy for over five lakh government employees

CRIME FILES

Police nab serial offender

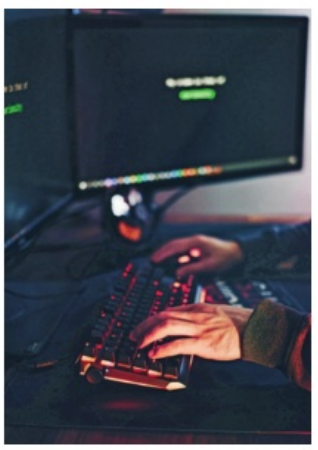
Kempegowda City Police arrested Rajesh, a notorious rowdy, under the Karnataka Goon Act. The 26-year-old, whose full name is Rajesh Motte Bin (Late Subramani), has been involved in numerous criminal activities since 2018, including attempted murder, assault, robbery preparation, extortion, theft, and witness intimidation.

Rajesh, a known troublemaker at the Kempegowda Nagar Police Station in Bangalore's South Division, has been the subject of 12 registered cases. Despite being released on bail multiple times, he continued to evade the law, hiding from trials and committing further crimes. Notably, he failed to attend court hearings in five cases, resulting in non-bailable warrants being issued against him. Additionally, he was fined Rs 1,000 for violating bail conditions.

Following recommendations from ACP VV Pura SubDivision and DCP South Division, the arrest order was approved by the Commissioner of Police on Wednesday. On Thursday, the Kempegowda Nagar Police apprehended Rajesh and committed him to Bellary Central Jail under the Goon Act.

Cyber swindler held, ₹1.07 lakh seized

A cyber fraud case involving the impersonation of a government authority resulted in the arrest of a suspect for swindling Rs 39.74 lakh from a victim. The accused, residing within the Agrahara police station limits of Parappa, was apprehended on January 18 after a thorough investigation by the Begur Police.



The arrest led to the seizure of Rs 1.07 lakh in cash from his residence. Posing as a TRAI official and using a fabricated CBI (Central Bureau Investigation) investigation, the fraudster coerced the victim into transferring large sums of money under the threat of legal action.

The victim, a resident of Begur Raghavendra Layout, filed a complaint with Begur Police Station on December 5, 2024. According to the complaint, the fraudster posed as a representative from the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) and falsely accused the complainant of involvement in illegal activities. The fraudster threatened that the victim's Airtel SIM card would be blocked due to a supposed CBI investigation linked to a person named Nirav Agarwala.

The scammer coerced the victim into transferring ₹39.74 lakh to an HDFC Bank account, claiming it would be returned after verification. Upon further investigation, police traced the funds, discovering a total of ₹6.52 lakh had been withdrawn via cheque. This led to the identification and arrest of the accused.

During interrogation, the accused confessed to the fraud and provided details about the money, which was seized by the police on January 21. A total of ₹1.07 lakh was found at the accused's residence.

Man arrested for vehicle thefts

A man was arrested for stealing multiple two-wheelers and an auto-rickshaw across various locations. Seven two-wheelers and one auto-rickshaw, valued at ₹4.87 lakh, were recovered by the police.

The investigation began after a complaint was filed by a resident of Canara Bank Colony, Nanjarsappa Layout, at the Chandralayout Police Station on December 30, 2024. The complainant reported that on the night of December 26, 2024, their two-wheeler, parked outside their house, was stolen. A case of theft was registered at Chandralayout Police Station.

Following an investigation, police apprehended the accused on January 23 at BCC Layout. Upon interrogation, the accused confessed to stealing the two-wheeler and other vehicles from several areas across the city.

With the information provided by the suspect, the police seized six more two-wheelers and an auto-rickshaw on Saturday, from a vacant lot next to a graveyard under the jurisdiction of the JJ Nagar Police Station.

The accused, identified in connection with the thefts, was produced before the Court on January 24 and remanded in police custody for five days. On Friday, he was remanded to judicial custody.

Student attacked after denying exam help

A student from Ramaiah Institute of Business Studies in Bengaluru was assaulted following a disagreement over not sharing his exam answers.

An FIR has been lodged at Yeshwanthpur police station against three students involved in the incident which took place on January 20

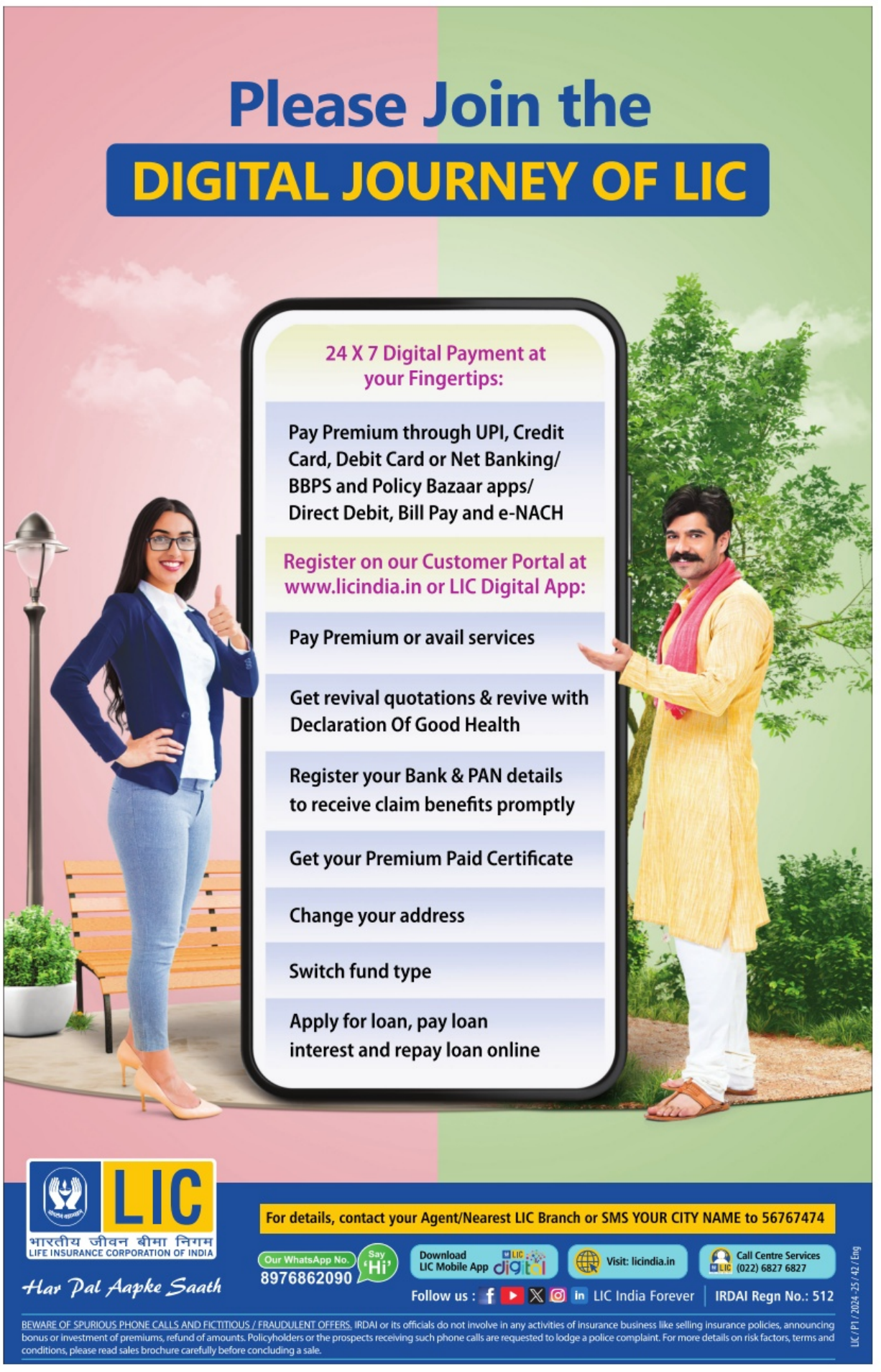
The victim, Abhiram, a second-year BBA student, was allegedly approached by a classmate sitting next to him during the exam, who asked to see his answers. When Abhiram refused, the situation escalated.

After the exam, Darshan, along with Tybi and Vikas, confronted Abhiram, outside the examination hall, demanding an explanation for not showing his answers.

The situation turned violent when the trio reportedly followed Abhiram to a PG in JP Park.

According to the police complaint, Darshan, Tybi, and Vikas assaulted Abhiram with a helmet.

Abhiram later sought help from friends and filed a complaint at the Yeshwanthpur police station, where a case has been registered.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LIC / P1 / 2024 -25 / 42 / Eng

Day after clean-up effort, area gets trashed all over again

Waste dumping persists near Thalaghattapura Metro station after BBMP action; residents demand hefty penalties, stricter monitoring measures

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The vacant space near Thalaghattapura Metro Station is in poor condition the day after it is cleaned

Residents of Thalaghattapura and Namma Metro commuters were delighted when the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) authorities took measures to clear heaps of garbage dumped at the vacant space near Thalaghattapura Metro Station two days ago. They expected the BBMP authorities to clean the choked roadside drain that has become a health hazard and inconvenience for pedestrians.

Bangalore Mirror published a story titled "Trash takes over space around Metro station" on January 29, narrating how the vacant space near Thalaghattapura Metro Station became a destination for dumping all types of garbage by irresponsible citizens. The residents of Thalaghattapura and Namma Metro commuters have expressed shock over the condition of the vacant site a day after the BBMP workers cleared garbage. "I am not happy with those who are dumping garbage here even after the BBMP workers cleaned the space. Those people, who dump garbage at the vacant space, should be ashamed," said a resident.

BangaloreMirror
Trash takes over space around Metro station

BM reported on Jan 29 detailing how vacant space near Thalaghatta Metro Station became a dumping site due to irresponsible citizens

Demanding the BBMP authorities to penalise those dumping garbage, Chaitanya Subramanya, a resident, said that the recurrence of garbage also shows that there is no segregation at the source. "Non-segregation of waste is also against the High Court order. It will ensure all the mixed waste ends up in the landfills. The BBMP authorities are not interested in enforcing the Solid Waste Management norms. The condition worsened after the formation of BSWML (Bangalore Solid Waste Management Limited) whereas it was supposed to happen the other way around. Even after multiple complaints, the sewage issue remains unattended," said Chaitanya Subramanya.

> **"The problem with the BBMP officials is that they are not penalising citizens for creating black spots for dumping garbage**
> – Sudhakar SN, resident

She said that penalising those responsible for dumping garbage is the only solution. "The problem with the BBMP authorities is that they are not penalising citizens for creating black spots by dumping garbage," she said. Appreciating BBMP pourakarmikas for clearing garbage, Sudhakar PN, a resident, urges the BBMP to fix CCTV cameras to deter people from dumping garbage. "I want the BBMP authorities to take measures to clean the roadside drain that is choked with silt and garbage. Now, the space around the black spot looks like a wetland or a mini pond. It will be easy for pourakarmikas to remove garbage daily if the drain is cleared and the overflowing of contaminated water onto the road is stopped. It will be great if the BBMP posts its marshals to keep a vigil on dumping garbage here," said Sudhakar.

Meanwhile, BBMP Assistant Executive Engineer Chamaraj said that he has been attending to problems on a priority basis due to a lack of sufficient funds. "Hemmigepura ward is the biggest among all the wards in the city. There is no provision for us to install CCTV cameras to deter the citizens from dumping garbage. I will direct the BBMP Marshals to keep a vigil on the dumping of garbage. I will take measures to clean the roadside drain that is choked with silt and garbage to avoid contaminated water overflowing onto the road," the BBMP Assistant Executive Engineer said.

Whitefield to Indiranagar: Rental prices keep climbing

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Bengaluru's residential rental market has seen a sharp increase over the last two years, with rents rising by 7% in 2023-24 and a steep 12% in 2022-23. Some areas, especially those near IT hubs and with good connectivity, have experienced even higher hikes, going up by as much as 30%.

Whitefield, Sarjapur, Koramangala, Hebbal, and Indiranagar are among the areas with the highest rent increases. Gated communities have also seen a bigger rise in rental prices compared to non-gated properties, as tenants prefer secure and well-maintained housing societies.

Why are rents increasing?

The biggest factor behind the surge in rents is the end of the work-from-home era. After the pandemic, many companies shifted back to office-based work, leading to a rush of professionals returning to cities like Bengaluru. This sudden demand pushed up rents, especially in areas close to major IT parks and business districts. "Bengaluru's job market remains strong, and more professionals are moving to the city for work. This has naturally increased the demand for rental homes," said Amit Agarwal, CEO & Co-founder of NoBroker.

The demand-supply mismatch has been another key reason. During the pandemic, construction activities slowed down, and fewer new rental homes entered the market. While many projects are now nearing completion, supply is still catching up with demand.

Rental inflation has been steady over the last two years. The first quarter of 2024 alone saw a 4%-9% jump in rents across India's top seven cities, including Bengaluru, Pune, NCR, Mumbai, Chennai, Hyderabad, and Kolkata. In the third quarter of 2024, Bengaluru and 12 other cities witnessed an average 7.4% quarter-on-quarter rental increase. With rising rents and increased tenant movement, landlords are turning to property management services to ease the burden of managing their properties. These services help with tenant screening, rent collection, property maintenance, and legal compliance.

"Property management services ensure landlords get the best rental returns with minimal hassle. They also help in finding high-quality tenants, reducing vacancies, and maintaining the property in top condition. Properties managed by organised players generally attract higher rental yields as they focus on securing long-term tenants and ensuring steady rental income," he said.

With strong job opportunities and more housing projects nearing completion, the rental market is expected to stabilise in the coming months. "Areas near IT parks will continue to see high demand, keeping rents on an upward trend. For tenants, this means budgeting for higher rents or considering locations slightly away from prime IT hubs for more affordable options. For landlords, investing in property management services could help maximise rental income while reducing the stress of managing tenants and property upkeep," he added.

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Problems in your area?
Send us a picture along with specific details. And please, no phone calls or spamming

Roadside clutter
Chamrajpet Main Road

Pipes are being dumped on footpaths near Chamrajpet Main Road, obstructing pedestrian movement.

Parking chaos
Jayanagar

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No Parking boards line Jayanagar's 33rd Cross, 4th Block, but vehicles still occupy pavements and both sides, endangering pedestrians.

Traffic mismatch
Jayanagar

At Abhaya Ganapati Temple, Jayanagar, the pedestrian light and zebra crossing are not aligned, pointing to an infrastructure discrepancy.

Patients, families struggle as blood donation shortage hits city

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Over the past month, blood donation centres across the state have been facing a shortage of donors, resulting in a significant drop of 30-40% in blood collections. As a result, patients are struggling to receive blood for treatment, and family members are being forced to source it from friends and relatives.

The shortage has been attributed to factors, including consecutive holidays, exams in colleges, and the work-from-home policies of a few companies. As a result, fewer people have been coming forward to donate blood.

Despite efforts to organise donation camps, the turnout has been low. "There is a need for more awareness about blood donation. Many myths surround blood donation, which discourages people from participating. Even when camps are organised, fewer people come forward," said Shivashankar from the Wilson Garden Lions Blood Donation Centre.

Small improvement after Jan 26

Blood donation centres have reported a slight improvement in the situation after January 26. Blood is needed for patients suffering from thalassemia, cancer, haemophilia (a blood clotting disorder), those undergoing surgery, and people in emergency situations such as accidents. Thalassemia patients require regular blood transfusions to maintain their haemoglobin levels due to insufficient protein production in their bodies. Depending on the severity, these patients need blood transfusions once or twice a month.

"There is a need for more awareness about blood donation. Many myths surround blood donation, which discourages people from participating.

Collection ahead of Aero Show

From February 10 to 14, the Yelahanka Air Force Station in Bengaluru will host the Aero Show, expected to attract thousands of spectators, including dignitaries from India and abroad.

In anticipation, blood donation centres have been urged to collect between 25 to 50 units of blood per blood group as a precautionary measure. The centres have also been asked to keep records of donors who volunteer during the event.

"The shortage of blood has been severe over the past month, with blood collections averaging 700 to 800 units, which has now dropped by half. Organising even one blood donation camp per day has become challenging, leaving patients in urgent need of blood in a difficult situation," added Deepak Suman MB, president, Bengaluru Lions Service Trust, Lions Blood Bank, Vasanthanagar.

As heat is on, B'luru gears to regain its blue-green spaces

BBMP plans to release standard operating procedure for sustainable infra that will help get city climate-ready

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The Forest, Environment, Climate Change Management cell of Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) is all set to roll out its first Standard Operating Procedure (SoP) for Blue-Green Infrastructure Network (BGIN) in the city. Officials say the SoP is a collaborative effort with four organisations that is aimed at streamline implementation and clear guidelines for site engineers and contractors.

The SoP, expected to be rolled out in March, will help the civic agency plan better in developing 'blue-green spaces' in the city. "It is part of the Bengaluru Climate Action and Resilience Plan (BCAP). The SoP will provide guidelines and operating procedures for the development and maintenance of lakes, stormwater drains, and green cover in the city. The idea is to develop these networks efficiently, to make Bengaluru resilient to climate change," said a BBMP official.

The first version of the SoP will be launched on March 21 (International Day of Forests), with a second, expanded version slated for release in June. This document will include metrics, illustrations, and practical steps to help engineers, officials, and practitioners implement BGI solutions.

Grave issues

"Bengaluru is facing various issues related to climate change such as flooding, heat stress, and groundwater depletion. These issues are exacerbated by rapid urbanisation. While multiple organisations and experts have developed independent strategies, the lack of a consolidated framework has often hindered effective implementation leading to malpractices and unscientific demonstrations. This SoP will serve as a critical resource, ensuring that blue-green solutions—such as groundwater recharge systems, urban greening, and lake management —are designed and executed in an integrated manner, improving water management, biodiversity, and urban livability," clarified the Forest, Environment, Climate Change Management cell of BBMP.

Experts say it is important to protect the city's green cover and water bodies to create cooler microclimates and improve thermal comfort.

A recent assessment of the heat pattern of Bengaluru conducted by the Centre for Science and Environment (CSE), a Delhi-based NGO, showed that the heat index of the city has increased by 2% over the last two decades. The study conducted patterns during the summer season (March to August) from January 2001 to April 2024 highlighted that while the decadal average air temperature in the city has increased by 0.5°C compared to 2001 - 2010; relative humidity remained stable, leading to a surge in heat stress.

Heat stress

The assessment underlined that between 2003 and 2023, the city's concrete area increased from 37.5% to 71.5%. "The increase in paved surface in and around the city has created heat stress in the city. Summers are getting increasingly warmer, leading to discomfort. The initiative by BBMP's Environment, Climate Change Management cell is a step in the right direction. But, many more such initiatives are needed to bring back Bengaluru's lost glory," said a environmentalist.

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BENGALURU SPEAKS

and gets heard on this page

STORYBEHINDTHEPHOTO

SUPER MODEL

A kitten poses for a photo session at an apartment complex in Whitefield

The picture was clicked by **Avani Saxena, 12-year-old BM reader**

If you have a picture and a story to share, send us the picture with your name and number at **mybangaloremirror@timesofindia.com**

Students will have to get trained in practical skills

Karnataka exam authority introduces additional aspect to test students for CET-2025

| Bangalore Mirror Bureau
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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

The Karnataka Examination Authority (KEA) has introduced an additional curriculum titled 'Practical Skills' for CET-2025. This new addition will allow students to practice practical skills in science subjects. The Joint Entrance Examination (JEE) and National Eligibility and Entrance Test (NEET) have already incorporated these science topics into their national curriculums. In line with this, KEA has included them as part of the existing curriculum. The practical-oriented lessons in Physics, Chemistry, and Biology have been released by KEA for students.

Practical education will be provided for these three subjects in the second PU (Pre-University) level. These are hands-on subjects that students will learn in laboratories, and questions related to these topics will also appear in the exams. In Physics, there are 14 topics, in Chemistry 6, and in Biology, 16 topics related to practical skills have been included.

Practical-oriented lessons in Physics, Chemistry, Biology have been released

Student interest in practical skills may be low

Officials said that students often show less interest in practical skills, and when questions related to practical education are not included in the CET exams, lecturers may neglect teaching these topics, assuming they won't be tested. To counter this attitude, KEA has decided to include questions on practical skills in CET exams. While it is impossible to predict the exact number of questions that will come from this area, KEA officials have confirmed that practical skill-related questions will indeed be included.

Biology has 16 elements in the practical skills curriculum. As Mathematics does not include practical skills, it has not been added to this new curriculum. The CET application process has already begun, and the exams will be held on April 16 and 17. Every year, approximately 3 lakh candidates register for the exam. With three months remaining before the exams, KEA has released both the regular curriculum and the new practical skills curriculum.

"We have already released the curriculum, and in addition to that, we have added the practical skills curriculum for science subjects. This will result in questions in the CET exam, so students should prepare according to the updated curriculum," said H. Prasanna, Executive Director, KEA.

No confusion expected

Following confusion last year over questions not included in the official curriculum, KEA has been cautious this year to prevent similar issues. If practical skill-related questions appear in CET, candidates will have already been made aware of them in the released curriculum. This proactive approach is aimed at ensuring students are well-prepared without any confusion.

DID YOU KNOW?

A Belgian research scientist is working with the federal police to create a scent that mimics the smell of dried human bones to help sniffer dogs find long lost remains. Clement Martin has already isolated the smell of decomposing human flesh and that is now used to train Belgium's cadaver dogs. But once the soft tissue has disappeared, the scent molecules of the remaining bones become significantly fewer, scientific researcher Martin told Reuters. "Bones smell different over the years too. A 3-year-old bone will smell different to a 10-year-old one and even 20 years," he said. Skeletal remains are porous too and absorb smells from the surrounding environment, from the soil to pine trees. "In the situation of cold cases, there was a gap. Our dogs were not able to find dried bones," Kris Cardoen, head of federal police dog training, told Reuters. — Reuters

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9591233247
Let's see how much you know about Namma Bengaluru, folks. Tell us something incredible and mind-boggling about this beautiful city and our editors and researchers will check it out. If it's credible, we'll give it a shout-out, with your name and picture.

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Photo Of Tipu Sultan tableau at R-Day parade is from 2014

| Boomlive.in

CLAIM: Photo shows Karnataka's tableau featuring Tipu Sultan in the 2025 Republic Day parade.

FACT CHECK: The picture is from 2014. In the 2025 Republic Day Parade, the Karnataka government's tableau theme was the historic town of Lakkundi, located in the Gadag district.

A photo from 2014 showing Tipu Sultan in Karnataka's tableau for the then Republic Day parade is viral claiming it is recent from 2025 celebrations held in Delhi. BOOM found that the picture is not recent but from 2014. In the 2025 Republic Day Parade, the Karnataka government's theme for the tableau was the historic town of Lakkundi, located in the Gadag district. In the viral photo, a tableau featuring Tipu Sultan holding a sword upward in his hand can be seen with the name of the state 'Karnataka' in Hindi. A Facebook user posted the picture with a caption, "Tipu sultan. Most powerful and most iconic moment of the Republic day parade. 26 January 2025". (sic)

Fact Check BOOM ran a reverse search on the photo and found an article published by India Today on January 26, 2014, carrying the same photo. The article reported about the controversy surrounding the Karnataka government's decision at the time to feature Tipu Sultan in the Republic Day parade in New Delhi. Taking a cue, we ran a related keyword search on Doordarshan National's official YouTube channel and found that visuals of Karnataka's tableau at the Republic Day parade were streamed live on January 26, 2014.

The tableau featuring Tipu Sultan's portrait, presented by the then Karnataka government at the 65th Republic Day parade, can be seen starting from the 2:00:20 timestamp.

Karnataka's 2025 Republic Day Parade Theme: Lakkundi

According to a press release by the Ministry of Defence published on January 22, 2025, the current Karnataka government chose the theme "Lakkundi: Cradle of Stone Craft." DD News on January 26, 2025, reported that Karnataka's tableau celebrated the historic town of Lakkundi, located in the Gadag district. The report says, "The town, situated 70 kilometers from Hubli City, is renowned for its intricately carved temples, stepwells, and inscriptions from the Chalukya dynasty. The tableau also highlighted the exquisitely carved temples and ornate pillars of the Nanneswara temple. The tableau depicted the architectural marvels and the region's cultural legacy, showcasing its importance as a destination for history enthusiasts and tourists exploring Karnataka's culturally rich heritage." The visuals of Karnataka's tableau in the 2025 Republic Day parade can be viewed on Doordarshan National's official YouTube channel's live stream from the 2:32:00 timestamp onwards. ***The story was originally published by boomlive.in (https://www.boomlive.in/fact-check/republic-day-karnataka-tipu-sultan-2025-parade-claims-fact-check-27650) and republished by Bangalore Mirror as part of the Shakti Collective)***

THE SUNDAY READ

Policing, over the years

B'luru Traffic Police: Since 1866, leading the way from bullock carts to tech-driven traffic mangement

| Sridhar.Vivan@timesofindia.com

TWEETS @sridharvMirror

Did you know that modern policing in Bengaluru dates back to 1866? Back then, the city—formerly called Bangalore Town—had a modest police force of just 205 officers, funded by the Provincial Fund. Bengaluru Traffic Police recently unveiled its coffee table book documenting the metamorphosis of the police.

According to the book, Captain ED Gompertz, regarded as the first Superintendent of Police, was responsible for managing traffic across the entire town, including the Cantonment area. As the city expanded and the railways improved connectivity, the need for organised policing became evident, leading to the introduction of the Mysore Police Act of 1908. This Act marked a turning point in traffic management, formally assigning road regulation duties to the civil police. Officers were tasked with ensuring smooth movement on the streets, enforcing road rules, preventing obstructions, and even making sure that vehicles carried lights between "half an hour after sunset and one hour before sunrise."

Structured approach

By 1930, traffic policing took a more structured approach. FA Hamilton, former Inspector General of Police (IGP) of Mysore State, recognised that traffic control needed specialised personnel, distinct from regular policing. His proposal led to the formation of a separate Traffic Police Division within the Bangalore City Police, headquartered at the Ulsoor-Gate outpost. At its inception, the division comprised just one Inspector, two Head Constables, two Daffedars, and 66 Constables. This marked the first official step towards a dedicated traffic management system in the city.

Police Commissioner

The most significant transformation came in 1963 when the Police Commissioner system was introduced in Bengaluru. This reorganisation not only brought in a structured leadership model but also elevated traffic policing with the appointment of the first-ever Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP) for Traffic, BN Garudachar. This move streamlined traffic regulation and laid the foundation for the modern-day Bengaluru Traffic Police, which now manages one of the most dynamic urban road networks in India, the book claimed.

"Traffic signs in early B'luru were desgined for bullock cart drivers, with Kannada signs like 'Gaadi Edakke Hodeyiri' (keep left) helping regulate road movement

–From the coffee table book

In 1979, B'luru introduced wheel immobilisers for illegal parking, followed by its first towing vehicle, "Tiger," in 1984

First one-way road in Bengaluru

Did you know that Subedar Chatram Road was Bengaluru's first one-way road? This traffic experiment was introduced in 1964, setting the stage for smoother vehicular movement. By the 1980s, Brigade Road—one of the city's most iconic streets—also adopted the one-way system, significantly improving traffic flow and reducing congestion.

From bullock carts to smart displays

Traffic signs have always played a crucial role in guiding motorists, but in Bengaluru's early days, they were primarily designed for bullock cart drivers. Historical records mention Kannada signage such as 'Gaadi Edakke Hodeyiri' (meaning 'keep left'), which helped regulate movement on the roads. Over time, as the city's traffic landscape evolved, Bengaluru adopted the internationally recognised IRC: 67 Code of Practice for Road Signs, classifying them into three main categories: Regulatory Signs, which mandate rules with penalties for violations; Warning Signs, typically triangular with red borders to alert drivers of potential hazards; and Informational Signs, marked in blue to provide directions and facility details. Keeping pace with modern traffic management, the city has also introduced Variable Message Signs (VMS)—electronic displays that offer real-time updates on congestion, road closures, and speed limits, ensuring a smoother and more informed commuting experience.

Helmet rules and speed monitoring

According to the book, Bengaluru was among the first Indian cities to mandate helmet use for two-wheeler riders, reinforcing road safety measures. Speeding violations, once monitored with stopwatches, saw a major transformation in 1976 with the introduction of Doppler Radar, followed by speed radar guns in the 1990s.

Digital revolution

The transformation began in 1985, when officers were authorised to collect on-the-spot fines, eliminating the need for violators to visit court. In 2004, Simputers—one of the earliest handheld computers—were introduced for issuing digital fines, marking a shift toward tech-driven enforcement. By 2008, Blackberry devices replaced traditional paperwork, making e-challans the standard. This was further upgraded in 2017 with the adoption of Personal Digital Assistants (PDAs) under the B-TRAC 2.0 initiative. The latest leap came in 2023 with the introduction of Point of Sale (PoS) machines, allowing instant digital fine payments.

Towing and wheel clamping

Back in 1979, Bengaluru became one of the first Indian cities to introduce wheel immobilisers for illegally parked vehicles. By 1984, the Traffic Police procured its first towing vehicle, affectionately nicknamed "Tiger." In 1989, India Garage even donated wrecker vehicles as part of its CSR (Corporate Social Responsibility) initiative—a unique partnership between public and private sectors to manage city traffic, according to the book.

Changing uniform

Did you know that before 1982, Bengaluru's Traffic Police wore khaki uniforms like their civilian counterparts? Between 1973 and 1982, they switched to white full-sleeved shirts and slouch hats to improve visibility. However, for a brief period from 1982 to 1984, they experimented with navy blue pants and white shirts, before reverting to khaki—a tradition that continues today.

Outriders

Bengaluru's Traffic Police outriders are specially trained officers responsible for escorting dignitaries like the Governor and Chief Minister. Over the years, their motorcycles have evolved from Royal Enfield Bullet and Jawa Yezdi to modern Suzuki Gixxer models.

Industry stalwarts welcome budget, say tax relief will encourage growth

Karnataka industry stalwarts welcomed the union budget presented by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitaraman on Saturday saying the focus on infra, consumption, and investment will help the economy.

Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw, Executive Chairperson of Biocon Limited said the Union Budget 2025 is reassuring, as it instils confidence that India is investing in the right areas to drive stable and inclusive economic growth.

The significant income tax relief, with no tax payable up to Rs 12 lakh income, will put more money in the hands of the people and thus boost domestic consumption, she said on social media 'X'.

"Consumption, investment, innovation and employment are the four pillars of our economic growth model and FM Nirmala Sitharaman has focused on all aspects of those segments," she added.

N Venu, Chairman of Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) Karnataka State Council in a statement said the budget strengthens the foundation for 'Viksit Bharat' with its sharp focus on infrastructure, rural resilience, and private sector growth.

"A balanced energy transition, especially the aim to add 100GW nuclear energy along with eliminating civil liability, clean-tech innovation, and strategic capital investments pave the way for sustainability, self-reliance, and global leadership," added Venu.

With progressive reforms in infrastructure, manufacturing, and ease of doing business, Budget 2025 fosters an environment for innovation and investment, Vice-Chairman, CII Karnataka State Council, Rabindra Srikantan, said in a statement. "The push for clean energy, technology advancement, and a robust logistics ecosystem further accelerates India's transformation," he added.

The Budget's sustained focus on capex spend and more money in the hands of the middle-income group due to big tax relief, will provide a fillip to demand growth and employment, while being fiscally responsible, former Chairman of CII, Southern Region, Kamal Bali, said in a release.

"Subject to the fine print, every sector of society and economy (including MSMEs, agri, startups, tourism, skilling, training in AI), have been thought of and provided some sort of support for transformational growth," he added.

The Budget is inclusive as the finance minister has taken care of the agricultural and manufacturing sectors with the rationalisation of custom duties, focus on skilling initiatives through the creation of centres of excellence, and continued focus on capital expenditure, Deepak Bhall, Convenor of CII Karnataka Economic Affairs Panel said.

"All this while maintaining fiscal discipline -- 4.8% fiscal deficit this year and a target of 4.4% for next year," he added.

Federation of Karnataka Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FKCCI) president M G Balakrishna in a statement said, "The budget is pretty good. We had asked for a few things such as Tax Deduction at Source (TDS) and Tax Collection at Source (TCS). The government has considered that and removed TCS," Balakrishna told PTI.

The budget favours the middle class by giving tax exemptions for income up to Rs 12 lakh a year. MSME, agriculture and manufacturing sector get importance, he said.

Some materials imported by industries and some drugs are exempted from customs duty. "That will be a good development for the manufacturing and health sectors," Balakrishna added.

Vineet Verma, President of Bangalore Chamber of Industry and Commerce (BCIC) also said the reduction in tax rates and the increase in the tax threshold for the middle class will promote consumption. "The middle class is the backbone of our economy, and these measures will provide much-needed relief and encouragement to spend, ultimately driving economic growth," he added.

Manipal Hospitals chairperson H Sudarshan Ballal termed the budget middle-class friendly and good for the healthcare sector. "As far as the healthcare sector is concerned a few notable points are - setting up of day-care cancer centres in all district hospitals and establishing 200 hospitals in 2025-2026. These will certainly help take care of the increasing burden of cancer patients especially in the non metros," he opined.

"Consumption, investment, innovation and employment are the four pillars of our economic growth model and FM Nirmala Sitharaman has focused on all aspects of those segments

Karnataka received nothing: CM

Criticising the Union Budget 2025, Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah dubbed it as a disappointing one, detrimental to the state's welfare.

"Not a single demand we raised in the pre-Budget meeting was fulfilled. Karnataka, one of the highest tax-paying states, received nothing in the Budget," he claimed.

Addressing a press conference in Mysuru, CM Siddaramaiah said that the Central government continues to neglect Karnataka's interests.

"Despite farmers' protests, the Budget did not even mention MSP (Minimum Support Price), which is a great betrayal to the farming community," he said. Siddaramaiah further challenged BJP and JD-S Parliamentarians and Union Ministers to question the Prime Minister on why Karnataka was ignored. "Every state except Andhra Pradesh and Bihar was neglected... despite the BJP-JD-S alliance, Karnataka was sidelined," he said.

Siddaramaiah said that "the BJP is taking revenge on states that oppose Manusmriti and uphold Constitutional values". Siddaramaiah claimed that Prime Minister Narendra Modi is punishing Karnataka for rejecting BJP in the 2023 Assembly Elections. "Even 46 per cent of Karnataka voters who supported BJP in Lok Sabha elections are now suffering," he said.

The senior Congress leader further said: "No funds for Bengaluru infrastructure and no increase in Central share for centrally sponsored schemes in the Budget. **–IANS**

Real estate firms cheer tax relief plan

Shares of Indian real estate companies rose on Saturday after the government announced measures to boost the spending power of the middle class in Asia's third-biggest economy, likely spurring investments in the residential housing space.

India's plan to cut income tax rates in the 2025-26 budget was widely welcomed by investors and experts, as it boosts disposable income in a country grappling with sluggish consumption in recent quarters.

The Nifty realty index rose 3.3% and was set for its best day in nearly eight months.

Eight of the ten members in the sub-index were trading higher, with realtors Prestige Estates, DLF and Sobha climbing between 2% and 6%.

"This move is expected to strengthen demand for affordable housing," said Anuj Puri, chairman of ANAROCK Group.

Middle-class homebuyers, landlords, and investors can now benefit from reduced tax liabilities, better affordability, and fewer compliance hassles, Puri added.

Badal Yagnik, CEO of Colliers India, also echoed the sentiment and said the rationalization of taxes and enhancement of exemption limits can boost disposable income, spurring consumption levels and real estate investments, particularly in residential real estate and alternate financial instruments such as REITs.

The government also made room for homeowners to claim two self-occupied properties as tax-free, as compared to only one earlier, a move likely benefiting residential real estate investment.

This step minimizes tax pressures, promotes homeownership, and facilitates real estate investment, especially in second homes and Tier 2 and 3 cities, Puri said. **Reuters**

Middle-class homebuyers, landlords, and investors can now benefit from reduced tax liabilities, better affordability

Pvt sector can access part of maps, data from PM Gati Shakti portal

The government on Saturday announced to provide certain data and maps from the PM Gati Shakti portal to the private sector, a decision which could help them optimize last-mile delivery services and develop infrastructure-based applications.

PM Gati Shakti national master plan initiative was launched in October 2021 for integrated and planned development of critical infrastructure projects to reduce logistics costs. "For furthering PPPs (public private partnerships) and assisting the private sector in project planning, access to relevant data and maps from the PM Gati Shakti portal will be provided," Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said in her Budget speech.

Using these data layers like track length details, railway stations, DFC (Dedicated Freight Corridor), Good Sheds, national and state highways/district layers, MMLPs (Multi Modal Logistics Parks), warehouses, existing airports from different ministries will help private sector to optimize last mile delivery services, developing infrastructure-based apps, smart city solutions and tech driven logistics management and also enable them for informed decision and better planning in healthcare sector, disaster management, agriculture sector, and food distribution.

All logistics and connectivity infrastructure projects, entailing investment of over Rs 500 crore, route through the network planning group (NPG) constituted under the initiative. A GIS enabled national master plan digital platform has also been developed. **PTI**

Crash theory

Planes have high-tech systems to stop midair crashes. So what went wrong in Washington?

An American Eagle plane departs the Ronald Reagan Washington National, in the aftermath of the collision of American Eagle flight 5342 and a Black Hawk helicopter that crashed into the Potomac River, with the Capitol dome in the background, as seen from Virginia, U.S., February 1

2nd generation technology, known as TCAS II, goes a step further: it provides a pilot with instructions on how to avoid a collision with nearby aircraft or conflict with traffic

On Wednesday night US time, a passenger jet and US Army helicopter collided at a low altitude near Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport, and crashed into the the Potomac River.

A total of 60 passengers – including US and Russian champion figure skaters – and four crew were on board the American Airlines flight AA5342 from Wichita, Kansas. Three military personnel were in the chopper, which was conducting a routine training flight. Authorities say no one on board either aircraft survived.

This crash comes just over a month after a passenger jet crashed in South Korea – possibly as a result of a bird strike – killing all but two of the 181 people on board. The two incidents have focused attention on aviation safety around the world.

In the case of the most recent tragedy in the US, technology exists that is designed to help pilots avoid midair collisions with other aircraft. It is known as the Traffic Collision Avoidance System – or TCAS.

So how does it work? And why might it have failed to prevent disaster in this case?

What is a TCAS?

A TCAS is an aircraft safety system that monitors the airspace around a plane for other aircraft equipped with transponders. These are devices that listen for and respond to incoming electronic signals.

The system – also sometimes referred to as an ACAS (Airborne Collision Avoidance System) – operates independently of an external air traffic control system. Its purpose is to alert pilots immediately to nearby aircraft and potential midair collisions.

Since the technology was developed in 1974, it has undergone a number of advances.

The first generation technology, known as TCAS I, monitors what's around an aircraft. It provides information on the bearing and altitude of any nearby aircraft. If there is a risk of collision, it generates what's known as a "Traffic Advisory" – or TA. When a TA is issued, the pilot is notified of the threat, but must themselves determine the best evasive action to take.

The second generation technology, known as TCAS II, goes a step further: it provides a pilot with specific instructions on how to avoid a collision with a nearby aircraft or conflict with traffic, either by descending, climbing, turning or adjusting their speed.

These newer systems are also able to communicate with each other. This ensures the advice given to each aircraft is coordinated.

Any aircraft used for commercial purposes must be equipped with a TCAS in accordance with international regulations under what's known as the Chicago Convention. There are specific provisions under the convention for noncommercial aircraft.

Military helicopters are not subject to the provisions of the Chicago Convention (although they are subject to domestic laws and regulations). And there are reports the military helicopter did not have a TCAS system on board.

Limitations of TCAS at low altitudes

Regardless of whether the military helicopter involved in the crash was fitted with a TCAS, the technology still has limitations. In particular, it is inhibited at altitudes below roughly 300 metres.

The last recorded altitude of American Airlines flight AA5342 was roughly 90 metres. The last recorded altitude of the US military helicopter that collided with the plane was roughly 60 metres.

It is not an accident that a TCAS is inhibited at low altitudes. In fact, this is part of the design of the technology.

This is primarily because the system relies on radio altimeter data, which measures altitude and becomes less accurate near the ground. This could potentially result in unreliable collision-avoidance instructions.

Another issue is that an aircraft at such a low altitude cannot descend any further to avoid a collision.

The site of several near misses

Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport is one of the busiest airports in the United States. Commercial, military and private aircraft share very limited airspace and corridors.

It has been the site of several near misses in recent years.

For example, in April 2024, a commercial plane pilot coming into land had to take evasive action to avoid a helicopter that was roughly 100 metres beneath it. In an incident report, the pilot said:

We never received a warning of the traffic from (air traffic control) so we were unaware it was there.

Many people, including Democratic US senator Tim Kaine, pointed to this near miss as evidence of why a plan to allow more flights into Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport should not proceed. Despite this, the plan was approved the following month.

All of this will undoubtedly be examined as part of the investigation by the National Transportation Safety Board into this disaster.

(By Chrystal Zhang, RMIT University, The Conversation)

Tech in Budget

Focus on nuclear energy

The focus on nuclear energy in the Budget will strengthen the country's power infrastructure and reduce dependence on conventional sources, Union Minister Manohar Lal said on Saturday. In her budget speech, Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman made a slew of announcements on segments like taxes, infrastructure and nuclear energy, among others.

The vision to develop at least 100 GW of nuclear power by 2047 underscores India's ambitious yet essential transition towards clean energy, the power minister said. The focus on nuclear energy will strengthen the country's power infrastructure and reduce dependence on conventional sources, he said. The minister lauded the Rs 20,000 crore allocation for research and development in Small Modular Reactors. **–PTI**

Push for AI, IITs

Experts and stakeholders on Saturday welcomed the government's announcement to set up five Centres of Excellence for skilling and another centre for Artificial Intelligence in education, saying these will not only help foster innovation but also create a future-ready talent pool.

Infrastructure expansion at the five new IITs to facilitate 6,500 more students, 10,000 new medical seats and a big Artificial Intelligence push, are among the big announcements made by the government for the education sector in the 2025-26 budget.

"The expansion of IIT infrastructure to accommodate 6,500 more students and the Rs 500 crore allocation for a Centre of Excellence for AI in Education are a step forward," said Alison Barrett MBE, British Council. "We commend the Bharatiya Bhasha Pushtak scheme that will provide digital access to Indian language books," he said. **–PTI**

Geospatial mission

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced a Rs 100 crore National Geospatial Mission to develop foundational geospatial infrastructure and data, a move aimed at modernising land records, aid urban planning and promoting earth observation systems.

Geospatial refers to data associated with a specific location on the Earth's surface, which is crucial for positioning systems and adding layers of information on a map. "We will start a National Geospatial Mission to develop foundational geospatial infrastructure and data. Using PM Gati Shakti, this mission will facilitate modernisation of land records, urban planning, and design of infrastructure projects," Sitharaman said.

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How to avoid cylinder catastrophes

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

may lead to loosening or wear, so he advises that they be replaced every year.

On the morning of January 13, a gas cylinder leak led to an explosion around 8.30 am in Chokkasandra, T Dasarahalli. The blast severely damaged 6-7 houses, injuring five people, including a child. On October 21, a young man sustained serious injuries following a gas cylinder explosion in a residential area under SG Palya police station limits. The man, Pawan, was making tea in his living room when the cylinder exploded.

In September, an LPG cylinder explosion occurred at Sanjay Gandhi Nagar, Old Baiyappanahalli injuring four people and damaging 12 homes. The explosion demolished four houses, partially damaged eight, and wrecked a parked vehicle.

Yunus Ali Kauser, director, Department of Fire and Emergency Services, explains that gas cylinder explosions typically occur only when exposed to external heat, which causes the gas inside to expand, increasing pressure until it leads to an explosion.

LPG itself doesn't spontaneously combust, he said. "Without external heat, 99.9% of gas cylinders will not explode; it requires ignition.

However, gas leaks are common due to its heavier-than-air nature, settling on the ground and igniting if exposed to a spark. Issues like faulty washers, improper fitting, or negligence can contribute to leaks. LPG, a mixture of hydrocarbon gases, is colourless and odourless," he said.

He explained that the smell is from a chemical that is added in LPG so that leaks can be detected, underscoring the need for proper ventilation.

Tips

- To prevent a gas blast in case of a leak, it's crucial not to turn on or off any lights, as sparks can ignite the gas
- It's also recommended to walk with minimal friction, and also by avoiding wearing slippers, avoiding any movement that could generate static or sparks
- Refrain from using lighting equipment or flashing lights near the leak to minimise the risk of ignition
- To avoid fire accidents, ensure that gas cylinders are stored outside the house and not placed higher than the stove, as this reduces pressure buildup
- Always buy or refill cylinders from authorised shops, and never use cylinders obtained from unauthorised sources

BBMP has a plan for our trees

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

and under the provisions of the manual with due permission from BBMP's tree officer will be allowed.

The plan will not apply to horticultural trees and plants found or grown on public or private lands. Moreover, it will be supplementary to existing laws, rules, and regulations. In case of any contradiction, the relevant law, rule, or regulation will take precedence.

BBMP officials say the draft manual has been prepared to ensure regular monitoring and maintenance to protect both tree health and public safety in Bengaluru.

According to BLG Swamy, deputy conservator of forest, BBMP, the plan will help the department in managing challenges that trees face in cities, unlike forest areas.

"In Bengaluru, trees are often viewed as obstacles to development, leading to their removal for road widening or infrastructure upgrades. Their roots and crowns are frequently trimmed during construction activities, creating imbalances that increase the risk of tree falls. Restricted root space and scarcity of soil moisture exacerbate their weaknesses and make them more vulnerable to diseases. These aspects are not covered under the Karnataka Tree Preservation Act. The plan is expected to fill this gap," said Swamy.

He further added that the objective of the manual is to minimise the number of trees being removed, improve tree health and extend longevity and increase public safety.

"A lot of risks from avenue trees arise due to poor quality of planting stock, indiscriminate planting practices, lack of biodiversity in urban tree species and age of the tree and the environmental conditions. The manual will help us deal with these issues in a streamlined manner," he added.

The draft manual, once approved, will be reviewed by a committee consisting of the Director, the officer heading the Working Plan Wing of the Karnataka Forest Department, and members of the Tree Expert Committee within 30 days of submission. After review, the draft will be presented to the Urban Forest Council within 15 days which will be required to approve it within 45 days of submission. Once approved, the plan will take effect immediately.

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I, Ashok Reddy Sunnampalli S/o Narayana Reddy R/o #14/240 Geetanjali Nilaya,1st Main Rd Kanakapura Main Rd, B'lore-560062 have changed my name to Sunnampalli Ashock Reddy for all purposes.

I Mahesh Puranik S/o Vinayak Puranik, R/o No. 21, 12th Cross, 4th Main Hanumagiri Main Road Chikkalasandra B'luru 560061 have changed my name to Mahesh V Puranik for all purposes.

I, Mohamed Maqbool, R/at No. 29, Mysore Income Tax Layout, Khushal Nagar, Bangalore - 560045, Have Changed My Name To Mohammed Maqbool, For All Purposes.

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HEALTH TIP: Gestational diabetes affects the body's ability to use glucose for energy, leading to feelings of extreme tiredness and exhaustion

Excessive screen exposure close to bedtime can also increase stress and anxiety, depending on the content being watched

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Oriental delight

Make a meal of these delicious East Asian recipes

VIETNAMESE SPRING ROLLS (Goi Cuon)

INGREDIENTS:
For the Rolls:
- 10 rice paper wrappers
- 20 medium shrimp (peeled, deveined, and halved lengthwise)
- 115g rice vermicelli noodles
- 1 cup lettuce (butter lettuce or romaine, chopped)
- 1/2 cup fresh mint leaves
- 1/2 cup fresh cilantro leaves
- 1/2 cup fresh Thai basil leaves (optional)
- 1/2 cucumber (cut into thin strips)
- 1 medium carrot (julienned)
- 10 chives (optional, for garnish)

For the Peanut Dipping Sauce:
- 1/2 cup hoisin sauce
- 1/4 cup peanut butter
- 1/4 cup water
- 1 tbsp soy sauce
- 1 clove garlic (minced)
- 1 tsp sriracha (optional, for spice)
- 1 tbsp crushed peanuts (for garnish)

METHOD:
Step 1: Prepare the Ingredients
- Cook the Shrimp: Bring a pot of water to a boil and add the shrimp. Cook for about 2 minutes until pink and opaque. Drain and immediately transfer to ice water to cool. Slice them in half lengthwise.
- Cook the Vermicelli: Boil another pot of water, cook the rice vermicelli usually 3-5 minutes then drain and rinse with cold water.
- Prepare the Vegetables: Wash and dry the lettuce, mint, cilantro, and basil. Julienne the carrot and cucumber into thin strips.

Step 2: Assemble the Rolls
- Fill a large, shallow dish with warm water. Dip one rice paper wrapper into the water for about 5-7 seconds until it softens (don't over-soak; it will continue softening as you work).
- Place the wrapper on a clean, damp kitchen towel or cutting board.
- Arrange 2 shrimp halves (pink side down) near the centre of the wrapper.
- Add a small handful of vermicelli noodles, some lettuce, cucumber, carrot, and herbs.
- Fold the sides of the wrapper in, then roll it tightly from the bottom up, tucking in ingredients as you go.
- Repeat with the remaining wrappers and ingredients.

Step 3: Make the Peanut Dipping Sauce
- In a small saucepan, combine hoisin sauce, peanut butter, water, soy sauce, and minced garlic. Stir over medium heat until smooth.
- Add sriracha if you like it spicy.
- Pour into a serving bowl and top with crushed peanuts.

Step 4: Serve
- Serve the fresh spring rolls with the peanut dipping sauce.

MANGO SAGO (CHINESE MANGO TAPIOCA PUDDING)

INGREDIENTS:
- 1/2 cup small sago (tapioca pearls)
- 2 ripe mangoes (cut into cubes)
- 1/2 cup coconut milk
- 1/2 cup evaporated milk (or regular milk)
- 1/4 cup condensed milk (adjust for sweetness)
- 1/2 cup water
- 1 tbsp sugar (optional, depending on mango sweetness)
- Ice cubes (for chilling sago)

For Garnish (Optional):
- 1/4 cup diced mango
- 1 tbsp pomelo or grapefruit (optional, adds a tangy touch)
- Mint leaves

METHOD:
Step 1: Cook the Sago
- Bring a pot of water to a boil. Add the sago pearls and cook for about 10 minutes, stirring occasionally.
- Turn off the heat and cover the pot. Let the sago sit for another 5 minutes until the pearls turn translucent.

For the Rolls:
- 10 rice paper wrappers
- 20 medium shrimp (peeled, deveined, and halved lengthwise)
- 115g rice vermicelli noodles
- 1 cup lettuce (butter lettuce or romaine, chopped)
- 1/2 cup fresh mint leaves
- 1/2 cup fresh cilantro leaves
- 1/2 cup fresh Thai basil leaves (optional)
- 1/2 cucumber (cut into thin strips)
- 1 medium carrot (julienned)
- 10 chives (optional, for garnish)

For the Peanut Dipping Sauce:
- 1/2 cup hoisin sauce
- 1/4 cup peanut butter
- 1/4 cup water
- 1 tbsp soy sauce
- 1 clove garlic (minced)
- 1 tsp sriracha (optional, for spice)
- 1 tbsp crushed peanuts (for garnish)Drain the sago and rinse under cold running water to remove excess starch. Soak in ice water to prevent sticking. Set aside.

Step 2: Prepare the Mango Base
- Blend 1 1/2 cups of mango cubes with coconut milk, evaporated milk, condensed milk, and water. Blend until smooth.
- Taste and add sugar if needed.

Step 3: Assemble the Dessert
- In a large bowl, combine the blended mango mixture with the cooked sago. Stir well.
- Chill in the refrigerator for at least 1 hour for best flavour.

Step 4: Serve
- Divide the mango sago into serving bowls.
- Top with diced mango, pomelo, and a mint leaf for freshness.
- Serve chilled and enjoy!

STIR-FRIED BEAN CURD (TOFU) AND MUSHROOM WITH SOY SAUCE

INGREDIENTS:
- 1 block firm tofu (bean curd), cut into cubes or slices
- 1 cup mushrooms (shiitake, button, or oyster), sliced
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 1/2 inch ginger, minced
- 1 small onion, sliced
- 1/2 cup bell pepper (optional), sliced
- 2 tbsp vegetable oil

Sauce:
- 2 tbsp soy sauce
- 1 tbsp dark soy sauce (for colour and depth)
- 1 tbsp oyster sauce (or vegetarian oyster sauce)
- 1 tsp sugar (or honey)
- 1/4 tsp white pepper (optional)
- 1/2 tsp sesame oil
- 2 tbsp water

For Garnish:
- 1 stalk green onion, chopped
- 1 tsp sesame seeds (optional)

METHOD:
Step 1: Prepare the Tofu
- Drain and press the tofu to remove excess moisture. Pat dry with a paper towel.
- Cut the tofu into bite-sized cubes or slices.
- Heat 1 tbsp of oil in a pan over medium heat. Add the tofu and pan-fry until golden brown on all sides (about 3-4 minutes per side). Remove and set aside.

Step 2: Stir-Fry the Vegetables
- In the same pan, add another 1 tbsp of oil.
- Sauté garlic, ginger, and onion until fragrant (about 30 seconds).
- Add the mushrooms and stir-fry for 2-3 minutes until softened.
- Add bell pepper (if using) and stir-fry for another minute.

Step 3: Add the Sauce and Tofu
- In a small bowl, mix all the sauce ingredients (soy sauce, dark soy sauce, oyster sauce, sugar, white pepper, sesame oil, and water).
- Pour the sauce into the pan and stir well.
- Return the fried tofu to the pan and gently toss everything together. Let it simmer for 1-2 minutes so the tofu absorbs the flavours.

Step 4: Serve
- Turn off the heat and garnish with chopped green onions and sesame seeds.
- Serve hot with steamed rice or noodles.

(Pradip Kumar Pani, Executive Chef, Grand Mercure Mysore)

All you need to know about...

Hair protection

Hair protection
"Wearing winter hats and scarves to stay warm often results in flattened and static hair," says Dr Kashish Kalra, Dermatologist, Hair Transplant Surgeon, HOD at Max Hospital, and Founder of Dr. Kalra Skin Clinic. He adds, "From a dermatology perspective, this is referred to as tractional alopecia. If you wear a very tight cap, it can exert significant pressure on that area, leading to hair fall or hair loss due to the pulling effect of the hat. To avoid this, ensure you wear a slightly loose cap instead of a very tight one during winter."

Choosing The Right Type Of Material
Woolen hats and scarves are essential for winter, but it's better to opt for cotton ones when possible. Wool tends to carry an electrostatic charge, which can make hair more frizzy or even cause itching. In contrast, cotton beanie caps, scarves, and hats are gentler on your hair and more comfortable to wear.

Protective Hairstyles To Reduce Friction
Tie your hair in a low ponytail, bun, or braid to prevent it from getting flat under your hat. Use gentle elastics like scrunchies or snag-free hair ties to secure your hair. Avoid metal clips, as they can catch on fabric and pull at your hair.

Scalp & Hair Hydration
Apply a deep conditioner or hair mask to damp hair, focusing on the ends, where winter damage is most noticeable. This conditioning treatment will help create a protective barrier between your hair and the hat. Apply a leave-in conditioner or lightweight hair oil to keep your strands hydrated and shield them from the drying effects of fabric friction. – Femina

Action-packed time-travel tale

Gana (Kannada)

2.5 RATING ★★½☆☆

- **DIRECTOR** Hariprasad Jakka
- **ACTORS** Prajwal Devaraj, Vedhika, Yasha Shivakumar, Sampath Raj, Ravi Kale, Shivaraj KR Pete, Krishi Thapanda, Vishal Hegde, and Ramesh Bhat.
- **CERTIFICATION** U/A
- **Duration** 141 minutes

Gana is the remake of Telugu movie Play Back directed by the same director – Hariprasad Jakka. The director has selected a good subject, but should have focused more on the narration. One of the characters' names – Sujatha – is the same in Kannada and Telugu versions. The director has ensured the film has all elements to draw the audiences to theaters. It is packed with emotion, sentiments, action and romance.

The movie begins with police finding two skeletons at Indira Colony in Bengaluru. The scene shifts to a private TV channel office where Gana (Prajwal Devaraj), a crime reporter, is being asked by his boss to join another TV channel as he cannot pay him salary due to financial problems. Gana rents a house where he finds an old telephone. At this juncture, the scene shifts to a house where Sujatha (Vedhika), a teacher, is trying to contact the Karnataka Electricity Board (KEB) office to complain about power outage. The phone call goes to the landline that is kept at Gana's rented house. Gana receives the call from Sujatha. They realise that they are from two different time periods – 1993 and 2022.

Gana comes to know that Sujatha is his mother. You have to watch the movie to know the secret of the two skeletons and what happens to Gana and his mother Sujatha.

Prajwal and Yasha look like they are made for each other. Prajwal is good in action, romance, and sentimental scenes. Vedhika has acted well. Ramesh Bhat, Sampath Raj, Krishi Thapanda and Ravi Kale provide good support.

If you are a fan of time-travel stories, go for it.

—Y Maheswara Reddy

Lost & found in the jungle

Kaadu Male (Kannada)

2.5 RATING ★★½☆☆

- **DIRECTOR** Samartha Manjunath
- **ACTORS** Sangeetha Rajaram, Artha Harshan, Karthik Bhat, and Gilli Manju.
- **CERTIFICATION** U/A
- **Duration** 109 minutes

Samartha Manjunath deserves appreciation for not only directing, but also bankrolling this film. The movie does not have action, dance, romance or comedy but it will keep audiences curious and rooted to their seats. The movie conveys a message to youngsters not to make decisions or come to conclusions in haste.

The movie begins with Meera (Sangeetha Jayaram), mistaking her boyfriend Suhash's gesture and deciding to end her life as she assumes that she is rejected by him. Meera comes in a car to a dense forest and jumps into a river to end her life but ends up getting washed to the river bank. Meera realises that she is trapped in a forest. She comes across repetitive incidents, including a character that looks like her. Meanwhile, Richard Thompson (Artha Harshan), who claims to be a paranormal activist, meets Meera. She mistakes him as the villain responsible for all her troubles and problems in the forest. Richard tells Meera that he too got trapped in the forest and wants to help her to get out of there. What happens to Meera and Richard is what Kadu Male is all about.

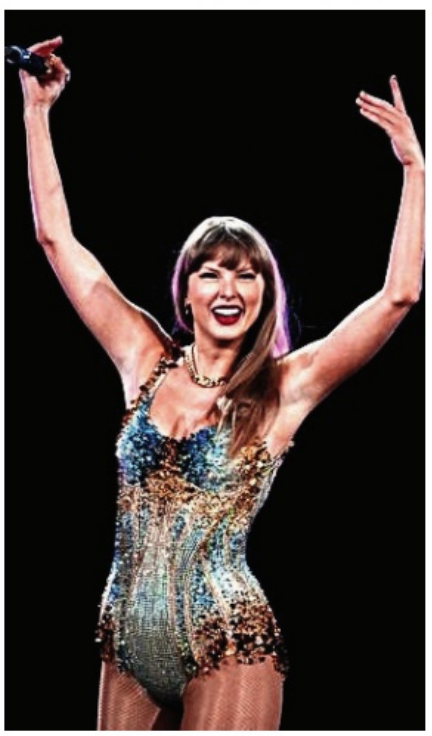
Though the movie has a refreshing feeling, the audiences will need to keep patience till the beginning of the post-intermission session. The dense forest is a visual treat but the background music can give you the creeps.

Sangeetha Rajaram has acted well. Artha Harshan, as a paranormal activist, is convincing.

This film is fun to watch if you enjoy brain teasers.

—Y Maheswara Reddy

Taylor to present at Grammy Awards, scores nominations in 6 categories



Pop singer Taylor Swift has been confirmed as a presenter at the upcoming 67th Grammy Awards on February 2, announced Record Academy on Thursday, reported Deadline.

The category of the award which she would be presenting has not been announced yet. Notably, Taylor's eleventh album 'The Tortured Poets Department' has also been nominated in six categories this year.

Taylor is up for album of the year and could make history if she wins the top honour for the fifth time, breaking her record, which she set with last year's win for her tenth album 'Midnights'.

The singer has also been nominated in the categories of Best Pop Vocal Album, Record of the Year, Song of the Year, Best Music Video and Best Pop Duo / Group Performance (with Gracie Abrams) at the 67th Grammy Award.

Taylor, who is currently considered as one of the top singers in the world, has won Album of the Year four times at Grammy's. The wins came for her albums Midnights, folklore, 1989, and Fearless. She ties Frank Sinatra, Stevie Wonder, and Paul Simon for three Grammys, but she holds the record for the most AOTY trophies won.

This year, the 'All Too Well' singer will compete with Beyonce's 'Cowboy Carter', Sabrina Carpenter's 'Short and Sweet', and Billie Eilish's 'Hit Me Hard And Soft' in the Album of the Year category.

Swift, Carpenter, and Eilish will also vie for the Song and Record of the Year gramophone trophies, reported Deadline.

In December, the Fortnight singer wrapped her most ambitious project yet -- the Eras stadium tour that spanned over a year and a half as she visited cities all around the globe.

The 2025 Grammys take place on February 2 from the Crypto.com Arena, in Los Angeles. Trevor Noah will host for the fifth consecutive time. The first wave of performers confirmed for the 67th show includes Chappell Roan, Billie Eilish, Charli XCX, Doechii, Raye, Benson Boone, Teddy Swims, Sabrina Carpenter and Shakira among others.

–ANI

Chai-Time

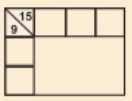
SOLVE IT IN A MINUTE

$4(\sqrt{5^{-1}} \times \sqrt{20} / \sqrt{0.25})$

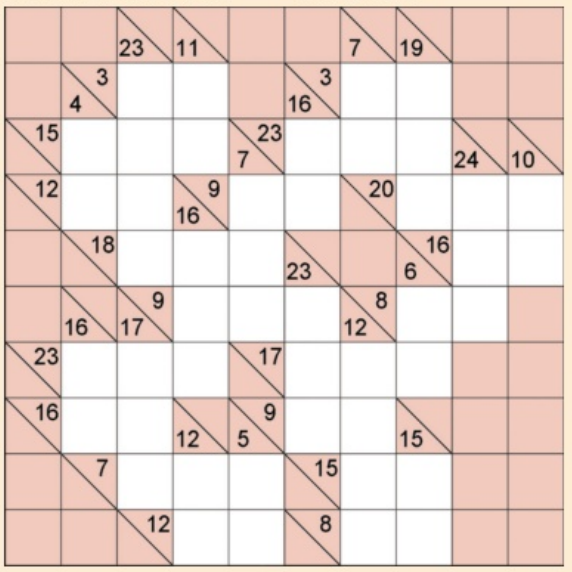
mybangaloremirror@timesofindia.com
facebook.com/theBangaloremirror
@BangaloreMirror

Kakuro

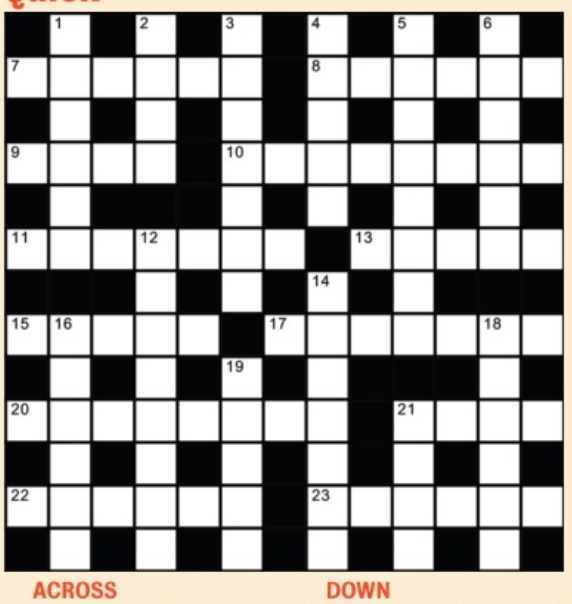
The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.



Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

7 Opposite of after (6)
8 One who dies for the cause (6)
9 Microsoft's gaming console (4)
10 Adolph Hitler's paramour (3,5)
11 Swelled or inflated (7)
13 Overhead tennis stroke (5)
15 Monks' building (5)
17 Edible root (7)
20 Sunil or Rohan of Indian cricket (8)
21 Foretell; be an omen of (4)
22 Rise to surface (4,2)
23 An unpaid and overdue debt (6)

DOWN

1 This lake can be found along the junction of Bellary Road and the Outer Ring Road (6)
2 Cajole or beguile (4)
3 ____ out : diminished gradually or come to an end? (7)
4 Greasy mark (5)
5 Roman or Greek galleys (8)
6 Thick sweet liquids (6)
12 Means (8)
14 Smooth part of the golf course (7)
16 Signal fire (6)
18 Citizen of our country (6)
19 Springs or jumps (5)
21 Minstrel (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: S EQUALS T

PAN SVGX VC SLX FAUYXCS WVCSJUZX OXSBXXU SBA DFJZXC.

Linemaro

When I saw you, the sun broke through the clouds

Mindchow

Deliberation: The art of examining one's bread to see which side it is buttered on

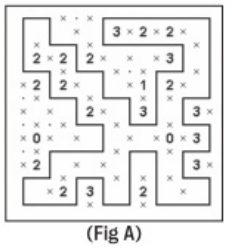
Joke of the day

I always said 'Aim for the moon. Even if you miss, you'll land among the stars'. But apparently that's not a valid excuse and I can't work for NASA anymore

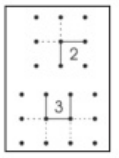
Loop

Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.



(Fig A)

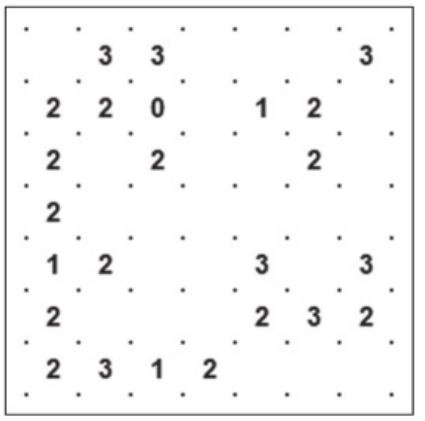


(Fig B) Not Allowed

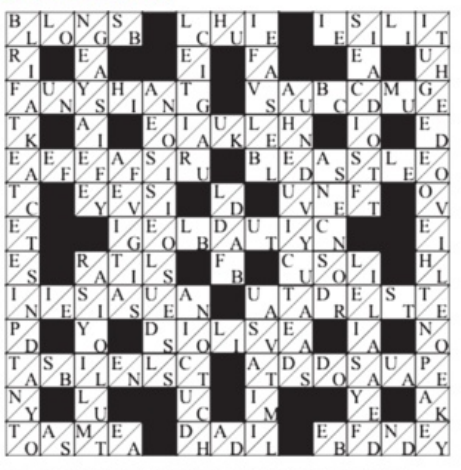
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



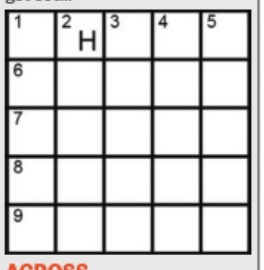
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

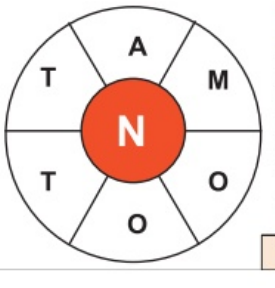
1 Ratch; 6 We Orr; 7 A true; 8 Air ma; 9 Be led

DOWN

1 Mr Cub; 2 Or lah; 3 A wear; 4 I tree; 5 Rated

Mensapuzzle

Which letter is missing from the right-hand segment?



Bull's eye

How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

02 Average; 03 Good; 04 Outstanding

SudokuChallenge

2			7	6		8	3	
		9		2				7
			3			4		
	7		6			1		
	1						2	
		8			7		5	
		5			6			
1				5		3		
	9	2		7	1			4

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

Easy = 23
2 4 8 9

Medium = 12
8 6 5 5

Hard = 27
1 6 9 2

HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

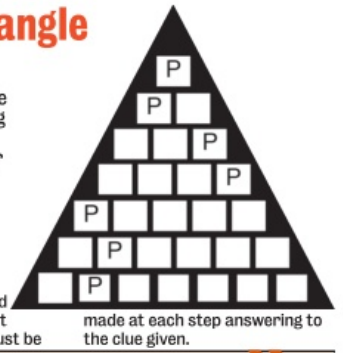
Differences: 1. Light is moved. 2. Sleeve is longer. 3. Cane is moved. 4. Display case is taller. +. Man has more hair. 6. Man's shirt collar is larger.

Riddler

I last over 200 days out of the year. Adam Sandler made a movie about coming here. Many stick around to earn a career. After you've been here long enough, you can bring your parents to tears.

Alpha triangle

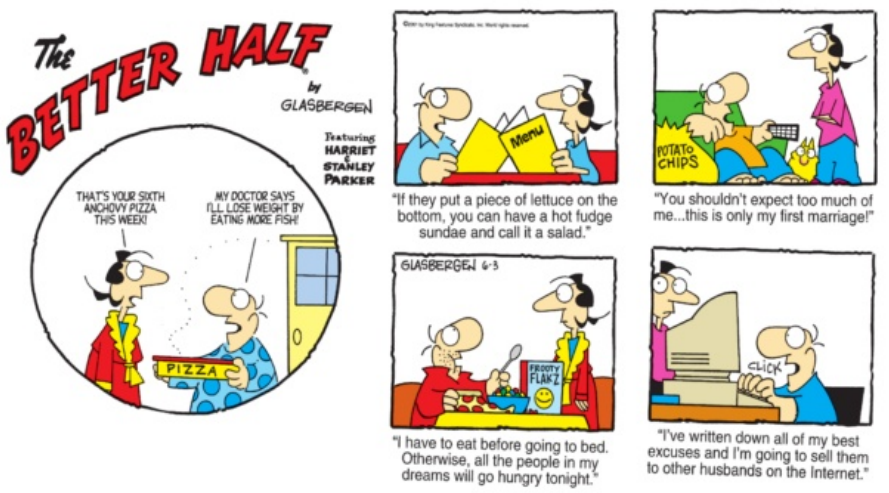
1 16th letter
2 A constant
3 Opposite of guzzle
4 Lose one's footing
5 Heaps
6 Join film together
7 Distinctive



Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE

COMICS


The BETTER HALF
by GLASBERGEN
Featuring HARRIET & STANLEY PARKER
THAT'S YOUR SIXTH ANCHOVY PIZZA THIS WEEK!
MY DOCTOR SAYS I'LL LOSE WEIGHT BY EATING MORE FISH!
PIZZA
Menu
"If they put a piece of lettuce on the bottom, you can have a hot fudge sundae and call it a salad."
POTATO CHIPS
"You shouldn't expect too much of me...this is only my first marriage!"
GLASBERGEN 6-3
FROOTY FLAKZ
"I have to eat before going to bed. Otherwise, all the people in my dreams will go hungry tonight."
CLICK
"I've written down all of my best excuses and I'm going to sell them to other husbands on the Internet."

BABY BLUES™
BY RICK KIRKMAN & JERRY SCOTT
BLEAH!: IT'S TOO HOT IN HERE.
I COULD TURN THE A/C DOWN, BUT THE ELECTRICITY BILL IS TOO HIGH ALREADY.
OR, I COULD GO LOOK FOR THE PORTABLE FAN AND AN EXTENSION CORD, BUT THAT'LL MAKE ME EVEN SWEATIER.
I KNOW! I'LL JUST FILL A PLASTIC BAG WITH ICE, AND PUT IT UNDER MY PILLOW.
BZZZ BZZZ BUZZZ
I WAS HOT.

NO SIGN OF A BODY, COMMANDER.
THOUGH WE DID FIND A SERIES OF TRACKS LEADING INTO THE FOREST...
...NOT ALL OF THEM...HUMAN.
HAVE SEARCH TEAM ALPHA BEGIN TRACKING.
KA-BOOM!
WHAT THE..?!
FLASH GORDON
BY JIM KEEFE
AS A RESCUE TEAM SURVEYS THE WRECKAGE OF FLASH'S SHIP, A SOUND LIKE THUNDER ECHOES THROUGHOUT THE VALLEY.
KA-BOOM!
WHAT WAS THAT?!
LOOK!
COMMANDER...
MEANWHILE, ATOP THE CASTLE...
FLASH! SETTING OFF THE REST OF THE AMMO WORKED! THEY'RE COMING TO INVESTIGATE!
THEY'LL NEVER REACH YOU IN TIME.
SAPPHIRE..?!
DID YOUR FEEBLE LITTLE MINDS HONESTLY THINK...
...YOU WERE THE ONLY ONES TO SURVIVE THE EXPLOSION?!
SNAP
CRRRAK
RRRIP
NEXT: REMEMBRANCE!

WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
Today, you are blessed with a positive moon, which may help you make the right decisions regarding investments. Your past investments may also bring you profits. You are likely to start working on a new project that will yield long-term benefits. Additionally, you may expand your network to improve your social status.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
Today, you may feel dull, and some negativity may surround you. These feelings could affect your mood, so it is advised to control your way of speaking, as harsh words may create problems. You may be inclined to reject suggestions from well-wishers. However, by late evening, things are likely to come under control.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
Today, you are blessed by the moon, which may help you control unnecessary expenses. You are likely to meet an advisor or receive guidance that will help you invest your savings in better options, boosting your financial health. You may find yourself more polite with others, increasing your respect among those around you.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
Today is a good day for your work, and you may perform well in your professional life. Your seniors may entrust you with responsibilities that could lead to promotions. You may find yourself in a favourable position in legal matters. Your child's health may improve. You are likely to meet an investment consultant to plan for your child's future. Additionally, you may gain control over your hidden enemies.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
You are blessed by the moon, and with the help of your elders' blessings, you may overcome last week's difficult situation. With destiny on your side, you will notice progress in life. Your spiritual power may help you make the right decisions. Your financial condition is also likely to improve.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
Today, you may struggle with negative thoughts. Your impatience and arrogance could prevent you from making difficult decisions. You will need the blessings of your elders to help you progress in your work. Avoid making investments in unprofitable assets. Couples should refrain from discussing past unpleasant moments.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
You are blessed by the moon today, and you may receive good news regarding your profession. Your domestic life will be filled with joy. However, it is advised to avoid arguments over trivial family matters. You can make important investment decisions regarding assets. Students are likely to remain focused on their studies.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
Today, you may be busy at work. Your focus on your goals is clear, helping you complete tasks before deadlines and with perfection. You will also enjoy happy moments with your family. Singles are likely to find their soulmate. Additionally, you may plan to renovate your house or office, which could enhance your status.

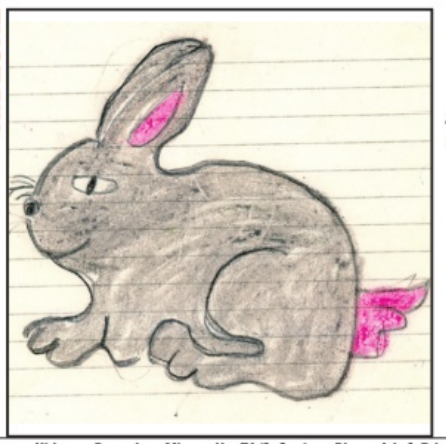
Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
Today, you are blessed by the moon. Your self-respect will protect you from negative influences. You may feel more emotional about family matters. At work, you are likely to perform well and complete. Your tasks are on time, boosting your confidence. Your inner strength will help you make difficult decisions related to business growth

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
Today, you are under the influence of a negative moon, which may create a sense of negativity around you. Due to your low mood, you may become arrogant. It is advised to control your speech, as harsh words may cause problems. Investments in fixed assets should be postponed.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
Today, the positive moon will shower you with blessings. You may feel confident and enjoy your work, leading to faster progress on your current project. Your health will be good. Your desires may come true. People around you may seek your help in solving their problems, which will enhance your prestige in society.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
Today, the moon is in a negative phase. You may feel dull and experience some health issues that could affect your daily routine. Be cautious, as someone you know may betray you. It is advised to stay alert. You may feel confused when making important decisions, so avoid taking any financial risks related to your business. Exercise patience and avoid rushing into anything.

KIDZONE



Akhilesh S, Bengaluru

Anushree, Bengaluru

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru-560 011;
Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M
4(√/80/√/5) = 4(√(80/5) = 4(√(16) = 4(4) = 16
4(1 / √5 x √(20 / (1/4)!) = 4(1/√5 x √80) =

RIDDLER
School. School typically lasts over 200 days of the year, Adam Sandler's "Billy Madison" was about a man returning to school, many people continue to college for a career, and graduation can bring parents to tears.

FAST FIVE

C	H	A	R	T
R	O	W	E	R
U	R	A	T	E
M	A	R	I	A
B	L	E	E	D

STRIKE OUT

L	O	G	S	C	U	E	I	S	I	T
T	A	M	E	H	A	L	E	D	D	Y
N	U	C	I	E	A					
A	B	L	E	S	T	A	D	S	U	P
D	Y	S	O	L	V	E	A	O		
N	I	S	S	E	N	A	T	R	E	S	T
E	A	I	L	B	C	O	L			
T	G	E	L	A	T	I	N	I		
T	Y	E	S	D	V	E	T	V		
A	F	A	I	R	L	E	S	S	E	E
T	I	O	A	K	E	N	I	D		
F	U	S	I	N	G	S	U	B	D	U	E
B	E	F	O	R	E	M	A	R	T	Y	R
I	A	I	A	H						
L	O	G	S	C	U	E	I	S	I	T

QUICK

H	C	P	S	T	S					
C	O	M	E	U	P	A	R	E	A	R
		G	I	W	A	I				
G	A	V	A	S	K	A	R	B	O	D	E
	E	R	S	I	N					
A	B	E	Y	P	A	R	S	N	I	P
		V	D	F						
B	L	O	A	T	E	D	S	M	A	S	H
		A	R	R	E	P				
X	B	O	X	E	V	A	B	R	A	U	N
B	A	T	E	I	R					
B	E	F	O	R	E	M	A	R	T	Y	R
I	A	I	A	H						

BULL'S EYE
moan, moon, onto, OTTOMAN

QUOTE UNCODE
For time is the longest distance between two places.

MENSA PUZZLE
G. The numerical values of the letters in opposite segments of the circle add up to 16 each time.

SUDOKU

2	4	1	7	6	9	8	3	5
8	3	9	4	2	5	6	1	7
7	5	6	3	1	8	4	9	2
5	7	3	6	9	2	1	4	8
9	1	4	5	8	3	7	2	6
6	2	8	1	4	7	9	5	3
4	8	5	9	3	6	2	7	1
1	6	7	2	5	4	3	8	9
3	9	2	8	7	1	5	6	4

ALPHA TRIANGLE
P, Pi, Sip, Ship, pies, Splice, Special.

GO FIGURE
Easy
4 + 8 + 9 + 2 = 23
Medium
5 + 8 − 6 + 5 = 12
Hard
6 \ 2 x 9 \ 1 = 27

LOOP

KAKURO

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Hrithik asks fans for a diet tip

Bollywood superstar Hrithik Roshan boasts of impressive fitness. However, the superstar has fired a query as the weekend sets in.

On Saturday, the actor took to his Instagram, and shared a picture of Gajar ka halwa. He wrote in the caption, "Gajjar ka halwa Healthy ? Or unhealthy ? What do you think?".

Earlier, the actor celebrated 25 years of his debut movie 'Kaho Naa... Pyaar Hai'. He took to his Instagram, and shared several pictures of the notes that he wrote ahead of the shooting of the film during his preparation time.

The notes highlight the extensive prep work of the actor, and prove why he deserved to become an overnight sensation with 'Kaho Naa... Pyaar Hai' which was directed by his father Rakesh Roshan.

He shared how he would have been embarrassed to share these notes on a public platform but thought to do it anyway to celebrate the film in all spirit.

He wrote in the caption, "My notes from 27 years ago...Then to now, what's changed? I see these pages and realise, absolutely nothing. Good thing? Bad thing? It's just how it is (sic)".

–IANS

Love thy self

Tamannah speaks about being comfortable in her own skin

Tamannaah Bhatia has always been vocal about body positivity, and in a recent conversation, she opened up about her evolving relationship with her body. Speaking with Masoom Minawala, the actress shared a unique self-care ritual that has helped her embrace self-love. "I do love my body. After a long day at work, I take a shower and thank every part of my body. It might sound a bit crazy, but why not? I know how much it takes every day, and I touch every part of my body, thanking it for withstanding the day and being there for me," she said.

The 'Lust Stories 2' actress further reflected on her past struggles with body image. In an earlier interview with Instant Bollywood, Tamannaah admitted that during her childhood, she equated being skinny with being fit. The pressure to look a certain way in movies also affected her perception of beauty. "There was a time when I believed being thin made me beautiful, but eventually, I realized it only served a certain utility and didn't truly make me feel good about myself," she shared.

The actress acknowledged that her mindset shifted only recently, and she credited her journey with dance and performances like 'Aaj Ki Raat' for helping her accept her body. "The times I actually started feeling beautiful had little to do with how thin I was. It took me a long time to understand that," she added.

On the work front, Tamannaah was recently seen in 'Sikandar Ka Muqaddar,' which revolves around a diamond heist and the involvement of three key suspects. Earlier this year, Tamannaah made a memorable cameo in 'Stree 2,' where she garnered attention with her performance in the song 'Aaj Ki Raat.'

Looking ahead, Tamannaah will star in 'Odela 2,' directed by Ashok Teja and produced by D. Madhu, with Sampath Nandi as the creator. In March, she shared a poster from the film, showcasing her role as a devoted Shiva worshipper.

–ETimes

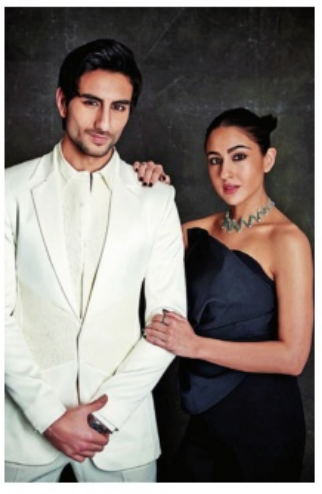
'Time to shine': Sara's wish for IAK

Sara Ali Khan can't keep calm as her younger brother Ibrahim is all set to make his Bollywood debut with 'Nadaaniyan'.

On Saturday, Sara took to Instagram and extended her best wishes to Ibrahim in her shayari style.

"Time to shine oh my darling brother of mine," she wrote, attaching the poster of Ibrahim's film.

In his first film, Ibrahim will share screen space with Khushi Kapoor, Suniel Shetty, Dia Mirza, Mahima Chaudhary, and Jugal Hansraj among others.



As per the makers, 'Nadaaniyan' is a "young adult romantic drama that captures the magic, madness and innocence of first love.

At its heart are Piya (Khushi), a bold and spirited girl from South Delhi, and Arjun (Ibrahim), a determined middle-class boy from Noida. As their two completely different worlds collide, they embark on a journey filled with mischief, heart, and the sweet messiness of first love."

With Sara already an established name in the industry, all eyes are now on her younger brother Ibrahim.

In an earlier interview with ANI, Sara opened up about how talented Ibrahim is as he wished him good luck and success in the industry. –ANI

Renee lived out of suitcase till she was 41

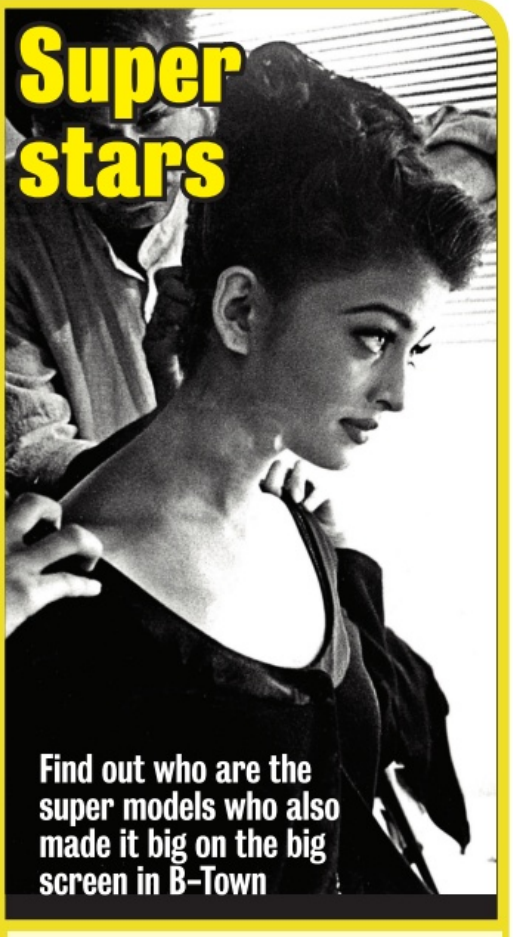
Hollywood actress Renee Zellweger revealed that she lived out of a suitcase at the height of her career and didn't unpack until she was 41.

The 'Bridget Jones's Diary' star said that she was incredibly busy for most of her 20s and 30s and didn't really find the time to settle in once place until she took a hiatus from Hollywood back in 2010.

Asked to give her younger self some advice, the actress told the Guardian newspaper: "Girl, slow down. Moving from place to place, constantly living out of your suitcase – I never unpacked until I was probably 41." Zellweger said she has no regrets about taking a six-year break from her movie career, reports femalefirst.co.uk.

She added: "There was a lot to treasure ... I scrutinised myself. And because I wasn't taking care of myself in my 30s, I didn't make great choices all the time ... It's really easy to forget yourself in the mix." It comes as Zellweger prepares to launch her fourth Bridget Jones movie christened "Bridget Jones: Mad About the Boy", slated to release in cinemas in February.

The actress said she can empathise with the character over the pressure on women to get married and have kids. The actress, who was married to musician Kenny Chesney for five months in 2005 and has no kids, added: "To choose not to have children isn't that exceptional, is it? I think it's quite common (these days)." –IANS



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